

**Patent Claims**

1. Communications and measurement apparatus with a cuboid housing, which
  - has a display unit on its front face and a plurality of openings arranged side-by-side for receiving plug-in modules, at least one of which is a data processing module, and
  - is equipped with additional modules for forming external interfaces for measurement and data transmission lines,
 characterized in that
  - all additional modules (14 through 19) are arranged in an equal number of openings (13) on the back-plane (10) of the apparatus (1) next to the data processing module (11A) on one side of said module (11A),
  - an extra module (21) with a system control is arranged between the additional modules (14 through 19) and the data processing module (11A) so that its component-carrying side faces the data processing module (11A), and
  - all additional modules (14 through 19) and the extra module (21) have a common backplane (20).
2. Apparatus according to Claim 1,  
characterized in that
  - the common backplane (20) of the additional modules (14 through 19) is provided with plugs on its side facing the front (3) of the apparatus (1), which plugs are located directly behind a removable cover plate (3A) of the front (3).
3. Apparatus according to Claim 1 or 2,  
characterized in that  
the additional module (21) is connected to the backplane (25) of the data processing module (11A) through a plug-and-socket connection (23) and a short conductor segment (24).
4. Apparatus according to one of the foregoing claims,  
characterized in that

- a fan device (26, 27) is mounted under the modules (11A; 14 through 19; 21).